

AltEn Release, Mead, NE

USEPA FOSC Ferguson and START returned to the site on 2/14/2021 to identify the extent of the release's flow from the facility. Release material observed at the intersection of Highway 66 (AKA County Road G) and the flow path at Observation Point A, but not observed at Observation Point B where Highway 66 turns south and intersects the flow path again about 2/3 of a mile southeast (see map next page). The material flowed about 4.32 miles before freezing or encountering a blockage in the flow path. Samples were collected at both Observations Points A and B. Facility personnel are blocking off the culvert at Observation Point B and will use this as their collection point for recovering material released from the facility. The facility General Manager and Plant Manager met with FOSC Ferguson to discuss plans for cleaning up the released material. The material collected will be placed in each of 3 lagoons on the facility property. The facility told us they have obtained an emergency exemption enabling them to reduce their freeboard to 18 inches in the lagoons giving them approximately 7.2 million gallons of additional storage volume. The cleanup plan the facility verbally agreed to includes stopping any further flow down stream (scheduled implementation today, 2/14/21—pictures of the containment will be sent to me when completed). Released materials stopped at Observation Point B will be pumped from the blocked culvert and placed in lagoons at the facility. Water from the facility's well will be flushed through the impacted stream and collected at the culvert and returned to the facility's lagoons. Samples will be collected to ensure all released materials have been removed and flushed from the receiving stream. The facility has committed to provide a written cleanup plan by Friday, 2/19/2021. The facility will also develop a plan to ensure the second digester tank has a plan to address a release like the current scenario.

Leaking Tank and Second Sample Location
1344 County Rd 10

Released material and rinsate flowing to Observation Point B will be pumped from the ditch with a vacuum truck and returned to the lagoons at the facility.

Observation Point A

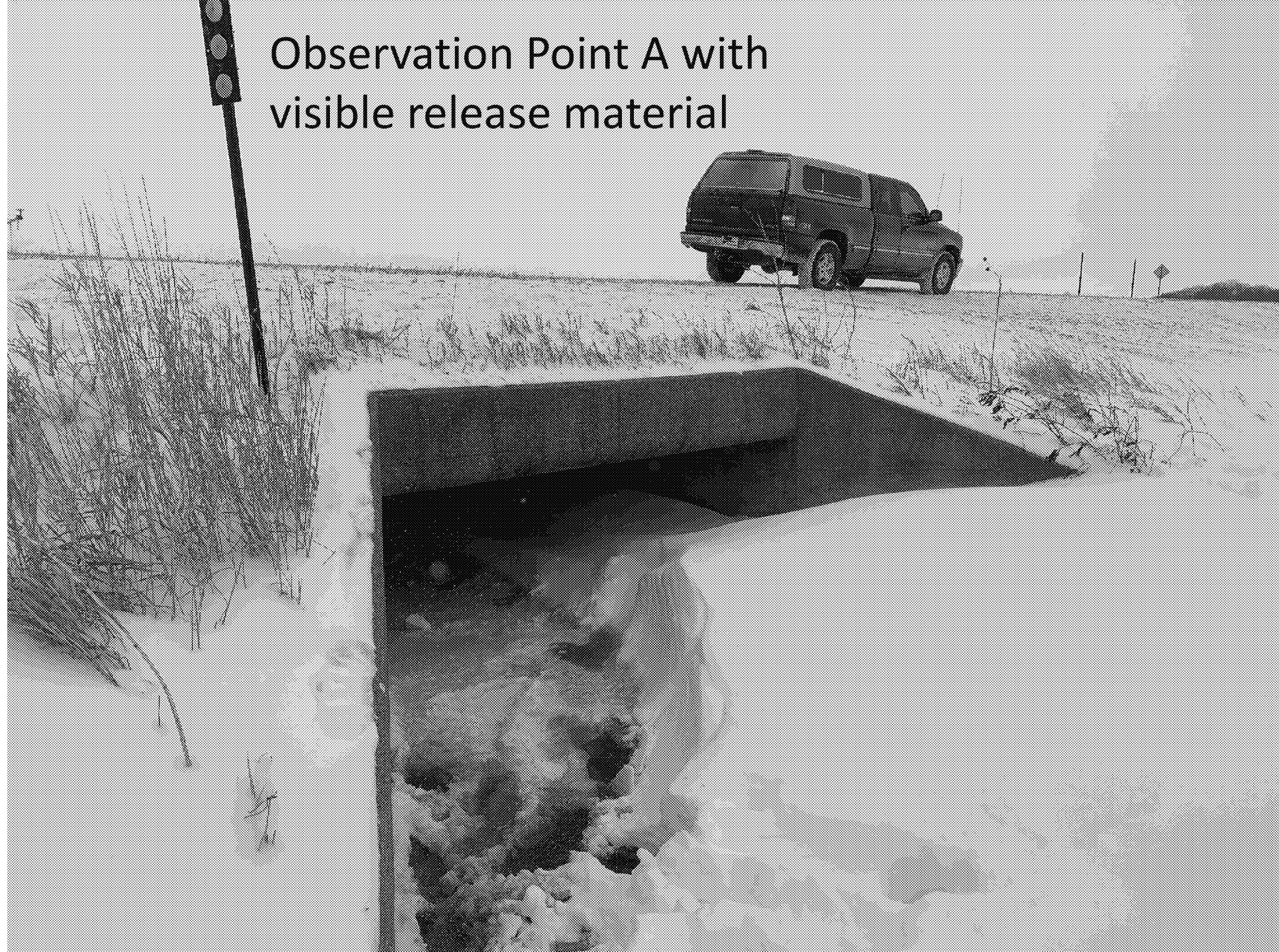
Observation Point B

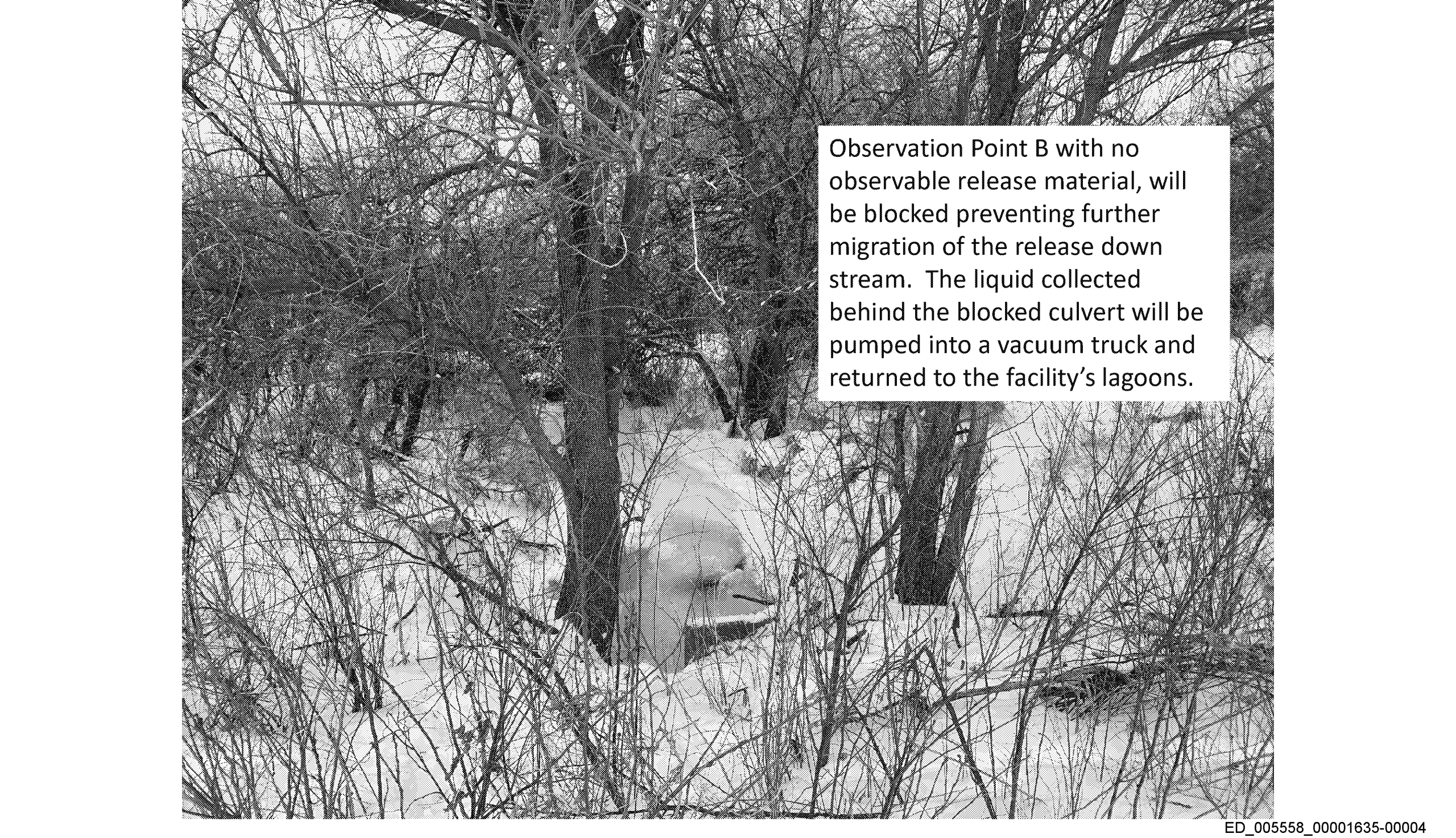
Google Earth

Imagery Date: 6/4/2018 41°10'32.18" N 96°25'20.92" W elev 1161 ft eye alt 38654 ft

ED_005558_00001635-00002

Observation Point A with
visible release material



A black and white photograph showing a winter scene. In the foreground, there are many bare, thin trees and branches. In the background, a snow-covered ground is visible, and a culvert structure is partially obscured by the trees. The sky is overcast.

Observation Point B with no observable release material, will be blocked preventing further migration of the release down stream. The liquid collected behind the blocked culvert will be pumped into a vacuum truck and returned to the facility's lagoons.



Observation Point B – before and
after PRP added containment
material.

Response Summary

AltEn, Mead, NE Release

- 22 liquid and 2 solid/sludge samples from 6 sample locations were collected along the flow path from the leaking tank to just past the end of the flow path at Observation Point B. Samples will be analyzed for pesticides, including those associated with seed corn used for fermentation by the facility. Samples will be delivered to Pace Labs in Lenexa, KS on Monday, 2/15/21 with processing starting Tuesday, 2/16/21. Turn-around-time will be as quick as possible and will be communicated as soon as it is determined.
- The facility will block the culvert just past the furthest point of travel in the flow path. Material collecting at the culvert will be pumped into a vacuum truck and returned to lagoons at the facility. The flow path will be flushed with the facility's well water and rinsate collected will be analyzed to ensure material has been removed from the flow path.
- A written plan describing the release cleanup and plans to address potential future releases from the second digester tank will be provided by 2/19/21.
- EPA and NDEE will work out arrangements for overseeing the cleanup of the release.